

## Question to Council – 18 July 2018

**Question C from Mr Andrew Crawford** to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Cox:

“Could the leader of the council please provide me with details of the deficit or surplus The Beacon has generated, expressed both as absolute values and as percentages of the council tax generated by households within Wantage parish for each of the last four municipal years?”

In addition, would he provide me with any documents the council has generated or commissioned which assess the possible financial impact on The Beacon of the two new large community buildings which Vale of White Horse District Council has decided should be built at Grove Airfield and Crab Hill through section 106 agreements with developers?”.

**Reply:**

“The table below provides details of the Beacon’s financial position (deficit) and this figure expressed as a percentage of the council tax generated by households within Wantage parish.

Year	Vale Band D	Wantage taxbase	Council tax for Wantage	Beacon Deficit	Beacon deficit as a % of council tax generated by households within Wantage parish
2014/15	£116.69	4,158.10	£485,209	£226,643	46.7%
2015/16	£116.69	4,243.3	£495,151	£195,175	39.4%
2016/17	£116.69	4,273.9	£498,721	£216,205	43.4%
2017/18	£121.69	4,325.8	£526,407	£247,465	47.0%

The district council element of the council tax collected from residents is not generally retained for direct expenditure in their own particular town/parish i.e. the money collected from the residents of Wantage is not solely spent within the Wantage boundary. All the council tax collected goes in to the council's overall budget and is spent as required on the services the council delivers e.g. waste collection, environmental health, leisure services, etc. which cover the entire district area. There are obviously some budgets that are focussed on specific areas (the budget for the Beacon being a prime example – although usage is not restricted to Wantage residents), but this is very much the exception.

There are no documents or work commissioned specifically to assess the possible financial impact on The Beacon of the two new community buildings planned for Grove Airfield and Crab Hill. There are no confirmed dimensions for the new community buildings, but once these are known, we will be able to assess any impact on The Beacon. However, it is expected that the new community buildings will have limited impact given the expected size of the centres and the activities that these could provide for the community which would not compete with the activities currently offered by The Beacon e.g. live performances, cinema, café / bar dance studio and multiple rooms for hire.”